



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

August 30, 2006

MIDLAND MEN PLEAD GUILTY IN FEDERAL DRUG/FIREARMS CASE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that earlier today in Midland, Texas, Casey Daniel Martin, 26, of Midland, pleaded guilty in federal court to one count each of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. As a result, Martin faces between five years and life in federal prison and a maximum \$500,000 fine. Chad William Stone, 27, also of Midland and Martin's co-defendant, pled guilty to possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, and similarly faces five years to life imprisonment and a maximum \$250,000 fine.

Appearing separately before United States Magistrate Judge L. Stuart Platt, both admitted that they had possessed firearms while committing a methamphetamine trafficking crime in Midland and Lubbock in early February of this year. According to court documents, Martin admitted that they had been "ripped off" during a prior drug deal in Lubbock and that they took the firearms to the February drug deal because, "that wasn't going to happen again." Both additionally admitted that they stole five firearms, a Chevy Van, cash, valuable coins and other items in Midland and Martin Counties in February before transporting the stolen items across interstate lines into New Mexico and beyond. Authorities in Salt City, Utah, found Martin and Stone in March 2006.

They remain in federal custody pending sentencing scheduled for November, 2006, before U.S. District Judge Robert Junell.

This case was investigated by the Midland Police Department, Stanton Police Department and Texas Rangers. Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Parras prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is carrying out the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement to target criminals in possession of guns. Federal law insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

#####